ARRI TECHNICAL NOTE P-1027

RPC & LCC USB Notes
August 2, 2000

Summary

This note provides information on how to use the USB port on a computer to connect to a camera.

Introduction

The current generation of ARRI cameras (16SR3, 535, 535B, 435) can be remotely controlled from a computer. The cable used is a serial cable that plugs into the serial port on a computer. Some computer manufacturers are now replacing the traditional serial ports with a new kind of interface, called the Universal Serial Bus (USB).

In order to connect these computers to ARRI cameras, a USB to serial adapter is necessary. We have tested two such adapters. There certainly are other USB to Serial adapters out there, we just happened to test these two. Please let us know if you have a good or bad experience with another adapter, and we will include that information in future versions of this note.

Keyspan USB Twin Serial Adapter

We have tested the Keyspan Twin Serial Adapter (part number USA-28x) extensively on the Mac PowerBook G3, and it works great.

One note, though: inserting and removing the USB adapter can sometimes change the “Connect via” setting of the Modem control panel. You will not be able to use your modem then until you open the Modem control panel again and set the proper “Connect via” option. This is caused by the USB adapter and not by the Ramp Preview Controller.

We have not tested the Keyspan USB PDA Adapter (part number USA-19) that would be used on a PC.

Contact Keyspan at: www.keyspan.com

Belkin USB Serial Adapter

The Belkin USB Serial Adapter (part number F5U103) works for the Windows platform. We have not been able to make it work on the Mac.
Contact Belkin at: www.belkin.com

Unplugging the RPC Cable

When you need to unplug the RPC cable temporarily (between setups, for instance), it is best to unplug the RPC cable from the USB adapter, instead of unplugging the USB adapter from the computer.

For more information on this issue, please contact your local ARRI representative.